18.

THE NEW PLOT OF THE PAPISTS:

BY WHICH

They Design'd to have laid the *GUILT* of their

Hellish Conspiracies

AGAINST

HIS MAJESTY

AND

GOVERNMENT,

UPON THE

Dissenting Protestants.

LONDON,

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M. DC. LXXIX.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE NEW PLOT.

CErtainly had not *Catiline* liv'd before the Coming of CHRIST, he would have been taken for a *Jesuit*; so like was he to them in his Conditions, his Tenets, and his Practice. His Conditions were Bloody and Cruel, his Plots against the Magistracy and Government of the whole Nation, and his Doctrine; *That there was no way to be safe for them that begin High Acts of Villany, but by Attempting Greater.* How near the *Catilines* of this Age, whose Plots against His Majesty and His Government have been so lately Discovered, followed the Footsteps of Father *Cethegus*, and Father *Curius*, and the rest of that Bloody Gang, every day more and more discovers. Here has been Plot upon Plot, and greater Ills attempted to conceal the Shame and Ignominy of former Impieties; Treason so foul and horrid, that *TREASON* it self could not Rest till it had Reveal'd it; while Labouring against the Stream of Providence, the Contrivers fall into those Snares themselves, which they were so cunningly Covering to Entrap others.

The First Notice of this last Contrivance was given by Colonel *Mansell*; So that His Majesty was pleased upon the Twenty seventh of *October* last, to have a full hearing of the Business in Council: Where the Colonel made his Complaint against one *Willoughby* alias *Dangerfield*, alias *Thomas*, alias *Day*, who had been about Six Weeks ago a Prisoner in *Newgate* under *Conviction* for several *Notorious Crimes*, and was thence Discharged by the *Sollicitation* and *Expence* of one Mrs. *Cellier* a *Zealous Papist*, and *Midwife* to the *Lady Powis*, and several other *Ladies* of the *Romish Perswasion.*

The Main of the Design, as it appear'd, was this; *That certain Persons intending a* New Plot, *thereby to throw the Old One upon the* Protestants, *began to put their Contrivance in Execution, by the Assistance of this most special Instrument,* Willoughby, *who to this effect beginning with Colonel* Mansell, *lying in* Ax-Yard *in* Westminster, *took a Lodging in the same House, where having lain but one Night, the very next Day he goes to the Commissioners of the* Custom-House, *and informs them, That at such a House in* Ax-Yard *there lay conceal'd several parcels of* French Lace, *and other Prohibited Goods; desiring their Warrant withal, and Authority to Search for and Seize the same: Which the Commissioners readily granted, and sent Two of their Officers along with him for farther Security and Assistance.*

These Persons coming to the said House, declared that they came to search for above a Thousand pounds worth of Prohibited Goods that lay conceal'd therein. Their Errand very much surpriz'd the Mistress of the House, in regard (that to the best of her knowledge) she had never lodg'd any that were either Merchants or Traders in Forein or other Commodities whatsoever. Notwithstanding which, the New Lodger and the Officers proceeded to make a Diligent Search in all Places, and coming into the Colonel's Chamber, by *Willoughby*'s particular Directions very strictly Examin'd every Corner, but more especially the Bed and Bedsted, which was remov'd and carefully search'd by the help of a Candle, which the Mistress of the House brought up. After the Officers had made a long search, and could find nothing, they apply'd themselves to put up the Colonel's Cloths and Goods which had been tumbled and misplac'd, intending to depart. But in the Interim, *Willoughby* who had continu'd all the while behind the Bed, cryed out, *What? were we all blind? Come look what this is.* Whereupon the Officers returning to see, what they could not imagin they had seen there before, found a broad large and thick Pacquet pinn'd to the Head-cloath of the Bed, which they pull'd down and found seal'd; but presently brake open, and perceiv'd it to be a Pacquet of Letters: One of which *Willoughby* suddenly catching up, in a great Surprize cry'd out, *Treason, Treason; these are all trayterous Letters*: Thereupon the Officers carried the Letters to the Commissioners, and made a full Report of all that had happen'd; which seem'd a strange kind of an Intreague to them. The Colonel, who was absent all this while, at length comes home, and understanding what had pass'd, found means to retrieve the said Pacquet; and immediately carried it to His Majesty, with an Account of what had befallen him, assuring His Majesty of his own Innocence, and produc'd such Proofs thereof, that he occasion'd *Willoughby* to be Committed to *Newgate*, and an Order to be given to the Attorney-General for the Drawing up of an Indictment of *High Treason* against *Willoughby*.

Upon *November* 1. 1679. Colonel *Mansell* further prov'd by good Witnesses, that the fore-mentioned *Willoughby* had stood twice in the Pillory, once at *Salisbury*; and that in *Berkshire* he had been whipt at the Carts-tail: That he had been Convicted at the *Old Bailey* in *London*, for Defacing the Kings Arms upon the Mill'd Shillings, and Stamping the Cross Scepters upon them; after which he Gilt them, and pass'd them away for Guineys. Some of the Letters which were in the Pacquet, pretended to be found in the Colonels Chamber, were written in Characters, all of different Hands, and contained Treasonable Matters; with the Names of a great many worthy Gentlemen, whose untainted Loyalty was thereby to have been render'd Obnoxious. This *Willoughby* appear'd at Court very Splendid in Habit, with a Servant in a Livery attending him: And it is said, he was by a Great Person brought to His Majesty about a Month since, and recommended as a Person much concern'd in a *Presbyterian Plot* against His Majesty, and Government, of which he would give His Majesty a continual Account: And indeed his Carriage and Confidence was such as might deserve some Credit at first, till he appear'd so Black, by the Discovery of the whole Cheat; that the Council declar'd, *That they lookt on this Matter as a Design of the Papists to put a stop to the prosecution of the Plot, and that they were of Opinion that His Majesties Person was still in danger.*

Upon *Saturday*, *November* 1. aforesaid, the Council sate late upon the further Examination of this *Willoughby*, and the Midwife Mrs. *Cellier*, who was by *Willoughby* charg'd for holding a Correspondence to Assassinate the King and the

the Lord *Shaftsbury*, naming alſo ſeveral other Inſtruments engag'd; among the reſt, the Lady *Powis*. He alſo further inſiſted, That the ſaid Mrs. *Cellier* had upbraided him with Cowardice, for not Stabbing the Lord *Shaftsbury*, which he confeſſed he had undertaken and reſolv'd to have done; but had not power to Execute, though his Hand was twice on his Dagger: and that thereupon ſhe took the Dagger from him, ſaying, *She would do it her ſelf*; in order whereunto, ſhe made a Viſit to his Lordſhip, upon pretence of Buſineſs; but was by Providence prevented. Many other deteſtable Crimes ſhe was charg'd with, which were attended with ſuch Circumſtances of Guilt, that the Council order'd her from the *Gate-Houſe* to *Newgate*.

One Mr. *Rigault*, a *Virginia* Merchant, inhabiting in the City, but a *Frenchman* born, was alſo Accuſed for being in Confederacy with her, and Examin'd, and afterwards Committed to *Newgate*. The Earl of *Caſtlemain* (being under Bail on a former Accuſation) was likewiſe Accus'd, Examin'd, and Committed to the *Tower*.

On *Sunday* at Four of the Clock, the Council being again Aſſembled, *Dangerfield*, Mrs. *Cellier*, and Mr. *John Gadbury* the Aſtrologer, were all Three brought and Examin'd: Mr. *Gadbury* was charg'd as a Confederate with the former; and that he had caſt the Nativities of His Majeſty, and his Royal Highneſs, and had from thence drawn treaſonable Concluſions, with divers other Matters of a High Nature; for which he was ſent to the *Gate-Houſe*.

Theſe Plotters had contriv'd a *Scheme of Government* wherein they had plac'd the Prime of His Majeſties moſt Faithful Nobility at the Helm of Government, by the old Name of *Conſervators of the Liberties of England*: And ſo in other Employments and Qualifications ſuch other Worthy Perſons as were moſt oppoſite to their Intereſt, intending thereby their utter Extirpation, and the Ruin of the Government and Proteſtant Religion.

The Papers containing the Model of their Plot was found by Sir *William Waller* in Mr. *Cellier*'s Houſe in the bottom of a Meal-Tub under Meal, where no doubt they thought them ſafe enough from being ſeiz'd; but the diligence of Sir *William* (Providence directing) found them out, to their no ſmall Amazement and Confuſion.

Within a Day or two after, Sir *William Waller* ſeiz'd in a Houſe near the Arch in *Lincolns-Inn-Fields*, leading into *Duke-Street*, ſeveral Habits, Veſtments, Crucifixes, Reliques, and ſeveral other *Popiſh Trinkets*, all very rich, and of conſiderable value; as alſo divers Trunks and Boxes ſtuff'd full of Books and Papers, which, as it is ſaid, belong'd to Father *Harcourt* lately executed, and contain Matters of great Importance to the farther diſcovery of the Plot, and confirmation of the King's Evidence.

They were diſcovered by means of a *Bricklayer*, who was mending the Tiles of the Houſe, and perceiving them to be lodg'd in that obſcure place, ſaid nothing 'till he had finiſh'd his work; but then inform'd Sir *William* thereof, who coming with the *Bricklayer* and ſome other Aſſiſtants, ſearch'd the Houſe, but could find no ſuch place; in ſo much that he began to ſuſpect ſome fraud in the *Bricklayer*, which put the *Bricklayer* into ſuch a rage, that he got upon the Houſe and until'd it. The Tiles were no ſooner laid open, but they diſcover'd what they came for, and being got the wrong way into the Room, they ſoon found the right way out again.

From that Houſe they loaded a full Cart-load of the conceal'd Goods before-mentioned, part of which conſiſted of ſome hundreds of Books, very well

bound in a large *Octavo*, call'd, *The difference between Spirituals and Temporals*, being the Tranſlation of a *Spaniſh* Jeſuit, by Sir *Vivian Molineux*, Dedicated to the preſent Queens Majeſty of *England*, and Printed in the year 1672. with many *Popiſh Catichiſms* and *School-Books*, to corrupt and poyſon the Youth of the Nation.

By the Time ſince theſe Books were printed, the vaſt quantities which have been by Sir *William Waller* and other Gentlemen, already Seiz'd and Burnt, by the quantities (which may be certain are ſtill conceal'd, and by the vaſt Numbers which we may eaſily conceive) are already ſcatter'd and diſpers'd into private Hands and Families; we may readily caclulate to what a Lofty Stature *POPERY* would have grown in a few years more, by ſuch careful *Waterings of the tender Engliſh Plants* as theſe: if not thus, in every thing, by a Miraculous Providence prevented.

Books are no leſs Criminal than Men, in regard they intend the ſame Deſtruction of the Soul, as the other to the Body: And therefore it is as neceſſary to bring Books to condign puniſhment, as any other ſort of Malefactors whatſoever. Theſe howſoever had the happineſs to accompany their Lord and Maſter *Antichriſt*, the riſe and ſource of all *Europe*'s Calamities, condemn'd by the people to thoſe Flames to which he had condemn'd the whole Kingdom. To which purpoſe, on the Fifth of *November* laſt, in the *Palace-Yard* at *Weſtminſter*, a great Bonfire was made, which prov'd the Funeral Pile of all theſe venomous Seducements of *Popery*, and ſeveral Copes, and other Veſtments and Habits, Beads and other Trinkets, belonging, or at leaſt in the Cuſtody of Father *Harcourt*, who had the impudence to avouch his innocency and allegiance, with all this Trumpery and Teſtimonies of Rebellion, at the ſame time committed to his keeping.

Among theſe baubles was found one piece of great Antiquity, and by computation of Time almoſt 800 years old. It was a Croſs of Gold, weighing about Four Ounces, upon which on the one ſide was Engraven theſe words, *Defendite Gentes hanc partem Crucis Omnipotentis*; in *Engliſh*, Defend O ye Nations this part of the Omnipotent Croſs: On the other ſide were Engraven the Arms of *Alfred*, King of *England*, who dy'd in the year 901. Beſides which Engraving, it was empail'd with divers precious Stones of a conſiderable value. Within this Croſs was another Croſs of Ebony, to which the Gold one ſeem'd to ſerve only for a Caſe; and as if it had been a little Neſt of Serpentine Idolatry, the Ebony Croſs was inlaid with another Croſs of a quite different Wood, which it is ſuppos'd their ſuperſtition believ'd to be a piece of the Croſs upon which our Saviour ſuffer'd.

There was alſo a gold Ring with a Motto, wrap'd up in white Paper, upon which was written, *The Ring of the Biſhop of* Glaſcow, with ſeveral other curioſities, which are as yet preſerv'd. The Croſs was preſented by Sir *William* to His Majeſty, who ſaid, he would keep it for its Antiquity.

Soon after was ſeiz'd one Mr. *Curtiſs*, who is reported to have been formerly a Clark to Sir *William Bucknal*, one of the Farmers of *Exciſe*; after that a Servant to Mr. *Henry Nevil*; and laſtly to a worthy Member of Parliament; from whoſe Service he betook himſelf to a debauch'd courſe of Life; and falling into the Acquaintance of *Dangerfield*, and the reſt of that Gang, appears to have been deſign'd for one of the eight Witneſſes, that were to have ſworn in confirmation of this New Mock-plot. He was firſt examin'd by Mr. *Warcup*, and ſent a Priſoner to the *Gate-houſe*, and afterwards was ſent for before the Council, where doubtleſs he confeſs'd ſomthing of Importance,

not

not yet fit to be made public, whereby he obtain'd the favour of Bail, which was granted him accordingly.

As for the Lady *P.* it is ſaid ſhe has confeſs'd all ſhe has been charg'd with, ſave only that ſhe was not privy to any Deſign to murder His moſt Sacred Majeſty. And indeed, that Lady was ſo brisk at her firſt Examination as to deny that ever ſhe knew, or had ſeen Mr. *Dangerfield*; to which he reply'd; that ſhe had ſufficient Teſtimony in her own breaſt to convince her that ſhe knew him; which words he was afterwards forc'd to explain, no way to the advantage of the Lady.

One Mr. *Bedford*, being fallen into the Gang, was deſign'd to have been a Witneſs with Mr. *Dangerfield* againſt Sir *Thomas Player*, for Treaſon, which *Dangerfield* had ready drawn up (as if ſpoken by Sir *Thomas*) in the nature of an Affidavit for him to ſet his Hand to. All *Dangerfield* put him to before, went down well, 'till this writing appear'd, at which he boggl'd. And this being put to him in the very interim of Colonel *Manſell*'s diſcovery of the cheat; *Bedford* fairly came in and confeſs'd all he was privy to, which being back'd with ſeveral Evidences more againſt *Dangerfield*, was the firſt occaſion of his Commitment: Who though at firſt, as all Malefactors do, he thought to have blinded the Eye of Juſtice by a Brazen-fac'd denial, yet ſuch has been his diſcovery ſince, and ſo well attended with circumſtances, and credible evidence, beſides ſomething conſiderable of matter of Fact alſo, that His Majeſty and Council have thought fit to grant him his pardon, as they have done to one Mr. *Sergeant*, a Secular Prieſt, lately come from *Holland* with Mr. *Sidney*, His Majeſties Embaſſadour to that *State*, who has given His Majeſty an account of the proceedings of the *Papiſts* abroad, in order to the accompliſhing their deſigns againſt His Perſon and Government at home, which God of his infinite Mercy preſerve.

Thus we may obſerve a Counterplot carri'd on by the ſame Partie, that is to ſay, the *Jeſuits* and their Accomplices; deſign'd to cover their own diſhonourable Guilt, by accuſing the Innocent, and endeavouring to incenſe His Majeſty againſt his own Subjects, in hopes thereby to diſable and enervate the ſtrength of his Kingdom; Manag'd with a Malice ſutable to the Crimſon Cogitations of *Rome*, but with ſuch a precipitation, as hath utterly defil'd the Fame of *Jeſuitical Craft*, and ſhew'd them rather actuated by the violent Springs and Reſorts of *Neceſſity* and *Revenge*, than by the regular rules of *Knavery*: or rather enforc'd by Providence to farther Confuſion, and haſtily driven forward with ſuch a choice of Inſtruments, that muſt for ever Obliterate the Scandals of thoſe Infamous Libels which have endeavour'd to invalidate the Kings *Evidence* by the Clamorous Reproaches of Poverty and Perjury, who were themſelves ſo impiouſly contriving to blow up the Loyalty, Integrity and Innocence of ſo many Perſons of indelable Worth and Honour, and with them the Reputation of ſo conſiderable a part of the People with a continu'd ſeries of the Perjuries and falſe Teſtimonies of debauchery and Impiety: as if S. *Omers College* were at ſuch a low Ebb, that it muſt be beholding to our *College* of *Newgate*, for dexterity of Execution in the carreire of Popiſh Contrivances.

FINIS.